

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Yasushi OKABE

Application No.: New U.S. Patent Application

Filed: March 19, 2004

Docket No.: 118201

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached PTO-1449. Unless otherwise indicated herein, one copy of each reference is attached. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

- ☒ 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (a) within three months of the U.S. filing date of this non-CPA application, OR (b) before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits in the present application. No certification or fee is required.
- ☒ 2. Relevance of the non-English language reference is discussed in the present specification. (Ref. 6)
- ☒ 3. The present application was filed or entered the U.S. National Stage of the PCT after June 30, 2003. In accordance with the June 11, 2003, Notice waiving the requirements of 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(i), copies of any U.S. patents and patent application publications are not attached. (Refs. 1-5)
- ☒ 4. English-language Abstracts of the non-English language references are attached hereto. (Refs. 6-9)

- ☒ 5. A computer-generated English translation of the following Japanese Patent Publication has been obtained from the website of the Japanese Patent Office (<http://www.jpo.go.jp>), and is attached, but has not been reviewed for accuracy. See References 6-9.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Scott M. Schulte
Registration No. 44,325

JAO:SMS/amo

Date: March 19, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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Form PTO-1449 (REV. 8-83)		US Dept. of Commerce PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE		ATTY DOCKET NO. 118201		APPLICATION NO. New U.S. Patent Application	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary)				APPLICANT Yasushi OKABE			
				FILING DATE March 19, 2004			

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB CLASS
	1	US 2003/0118370 A1	06/26/2003	OKABE et al.		
	2	US 6,330,410 B1	12/11/2001	OKABE et al.		
	3	6,041,203	03/21/2000	SUZUKI et al.		
	4	US 6,411,789 B1	06/25/2002	OKABE et al.		
	5	6,546,217 B2	04/08/2003	OKABE et al.		

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS						
		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB CLASS
	6	JP A 2000-250378 w/ abst & trans	09/14/2000	Japan		
	7	JP A 2001-347722 w/ abst & trans	12/18/2001	Japan		
	8	JP A 7-306603 w/ abst & trans	11/21/1995	Japan		
	9	JP B2 3337978 w/ abst & trans	08/09/2002	Japan		

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)		

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
Examiner: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with M.P.E.P. 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.	

Date: March 19, 2004